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Reputable human rights monitors paint a very different picture of religion in North Korea. "The
government controls most aspects of daily life, including religious activity, which is allowed only
in government-operated religious 'federations' or a small number of government-approved
'house churches,'" according to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.
"Other public and private religious activity is prohibited. Anyone discovered engaging in
clandestine religious activity is subject to discrimination, arrest, arbitrary detention,
disappearance, torture, and public execution. A large number of religious believers are
incarcerated in kwan-li-so [penal labor camps]."